

Ryzhkov meets Aziz, urges ceasefire

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz Tuesday and urged a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. TASS news agency said. But the report gave no indication that Moscow had budged from its refusal to join efforts to force Iranian compliance with a United Nations call for a ceasefire. Ryzhkov told Aziz that "United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a truce 'has all the essential ingredients for a fair and comprehensive resolution of contentious problems,'" TASS said. The United States and Arab Gulf states have pressed Moscow for an arms embargo against Iran to force acceptance of a ceasefire. Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal visited Moscow last week to seek Soviet help on the issue. Moscow has insisted that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar be allowed more time to mediate a truce. Moscow has also said that an arms embargo against Iran should be accompanied by the replacement of Western naval vessels sent to protect shipping in the strategic waterway with a U.N. naval force.

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Regent sends good wishes to Sri Lanka

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable to Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene congratulating him and the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the country's Independence Day. Prince Hassan wished Jayewardene continued good health and the Sri Lankan people further progress and prosperity.

Kinnock due in Middle East

LONDON (R) — British opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock will visit Egypt, Jordan and Israel from Feb. 14-21, his office announced Tuesday. A statement said Kinnock, who will be accompanied by his wife, Glenys, would be the guest of the three respective governments and would visit the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza during his trip. "The purpose of his visit is to see at first hand the current situation in the Middle East, and to discuss possible solutions with those immediately responsible, and those directly affected," it added.

Afghan foreign minister on Arab tour

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakeel left Tuesday on a tour of four Arab countries to discuss economic ties. Radio Kabul reported. The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said Wakeel will visit Kuwait, Libya, Syria and Jordan. He will brief Arab leaders on Afghan President Najib's offer of national reconciliation and economic relations with Islamic countries, the report said. It gave no further details.

Clergyman assails Israeli policy

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Israel's "iron-fisted" policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will not bring peace to the region, the president-bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East said Tuesday. "The behaviour of Israel in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not conducive to peace," the Rt. Rev. Samir Kafy, a Jordanian, told a news conference. "The breaking of bones will not help the situation." Israeli officials "have lately exercised an iron-fisted policy, and this will not help."

Egypt, Israel extend Taba talks

GENEVA (R) — Egypt and Israel will extend their efforts to settle a dispute over the tiny Israeli-held Taba coastal strip, diplomats on both sides said Tuesday. A three-member conciliation group, due to have ended its work by Monday, has instead agreed to keep on talking, the diplomats said.

Major U.S. banks cut prime rate

NEW YORK (R) — Major U.S. banks cut the prime lending rate by a quarter point to 8.5 per cent Tuesday in response to further signs of weakness in the U.S. economy. The move followed a government report that the index of leading indicators, a key barometer of the economy, fell in December for the third month.

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- Mubarak to visit Turkey Friday**
- CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak will visit Turkey next Friday, at the end of his current American-European-North African tour, Information Minister Saifat Al Sherif said Tuesday. Sherif described the trip to Turkey as a "working visit," and said Mubarak would meet with Turkish President Kenan Evren.

King arrives in Paris after securing Italian support for peace efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

PARIS — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Paris Tuesday from Rome after securing Italian support for Jordan's efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The King, who is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, was received upon arrival by French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond and senior French officials. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker joined His Majesty in Paris and will accompany the King on the next phase of his current European tour.

During his stay in Paris, the King is expected to hold talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and other French leaders on efforts to achieve peace in the

(Continued on page 3)

American veto kills Security Council resolution

U.S. denies having detailed proposal for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House said Tuesday it was actively engaged in seeking a Middle East peace settlement but denied it had put forward detailed new proposals for Palestinian "autonomy" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The White House statement, issued by spokesman Martin Fitzwater, came one-day after the U.S. voted a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for U.N.-sponsored peace talks on the Middle East, saying it would interfere with the new American diplomatic initiative.

Fitzwater said Tuesday the administration had not changed

its policy of trying to promote direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs in order to solve the Palestinian problem.

Fitzwater was asked if special presidential envoy Philip Habib, who has conferred in recent days with King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, had specific fresh proposals for a Middle East settlement.

"He doesn't. Habib has a lot of

different ideas for doing what our policy has always been — promote direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. There is no plan, no proposal," Fitzwater told reporters.

Asked if the administration

(Continued on page 4)

is expecting results from a flurry of diplomatic activity in recent weeks involving U.S., Israeli and Arab officials, he said: "That's what we hope... we are actively engaged in the peace process."

Secretary of State George Shultz, in brief remarks on the Middle East to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said: "We will be energetic in our consultations with leaders in both Israel and the Arab community as we seek to spur a new drive toward peace."

Shultz told the committee that Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy might visit the

(Continued on page 4)

White House for a breakfast hosted by Mubarak for President Francois Mitterrand and Chirac.

"Judging by what we were told in Washington, the U.S. government wants to study the idea of a conference," he added.

Abdul Meguid was asked if veteran U.S. envoy Philip Habib, who made a surprise trip to Paris Sunday to meet Mubarak after visiting King Hussein in Amman, had said Washington was still considering the conference plan.

"Our fighters... raided the two positions of the SLA. They fought fierce battles killing and wounding more than 20 of the SLA men," the statement said.

It said the fighters, firing machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades, destroyed a two-story building, a military jeep and an armoured troop carrier.

The SLA-run radio station Voice of Hope said SLA soldiers repulsed the attacks. It said two SLA militiamen were wounded.

Islamic Resistance said Monday its guerrillas had killed or wounded 15 Israeli soldiers and SLA militiamen in an assault on SLA posts near the southern town of Birj Jbel.

The Amal movement said its fighters attacked an SLA militia position Monday, killing or wounding more than 30 people.

Amal said its fighters, backed

by artillery fire, used rocket-propelled grenades and machinegun-fire in the afternoon attack against a post manned by Israeli troops and SLA men near the town of Jezzine on the edge of the "security zone."

Amal did not say how many

Israelis were among the casualties

Jordan and Italy agreed on the urgency for a Middle East peace settlement "also following the incidents in the West Bank and Gaza to accelerate the search for a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations," the statement said. It added that before such a conference was called "a sufficient basis of agreement must be created."

It said Italy shared Jordan's opinion that the Palestinian uprising "was an open and spontaneous revolt against Israel.

The statement said King Hus-

sein and Goria had examined the obstacles which must be overcome in order to convene a conference capable of finding a solution to the Middle East conflict.

They had considered the "readiness shown recently by Israeli Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Shamir for a short conference which would serve as an introduction for bilateral negotiations."

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(Continued on page 3)

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Secretary of State George Shultz, in brief remarks on the Middle East to the House of Representatives

Bonn police call go-between in Beirut to discuss hostages' release

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (AP) — A witness at the trial of Abbas Hamadi said Tuesday that federal police repeatedly made telephone calls to a go-between in Beirut last year to try to negotiate the release of two West German hostages.

Hamadi is accused of masterminding the kidnapping of the two West Germans in a bid to force West German authorities to release his younger brother, TWA hijacking suspect Mohammad Hamadi.

Riad said that in one conversation, Mona Hamadi asked that West German authorities be told "there won't be any negotiations or a meeting. They're only interested in an exchange."

Riad said Mona Hamadi told West German authorities that she was not involved, and that at no time did she say Abdul Hadi Hamadi was involved in the kidnappings.

Government officials, meanwhile, faced an apparent new attempt to force the release of the TWA hijacking suspect following the kidnapping of another West German in Beirut last week.

"So far we have no new information," a government official said Monday, referring to the kidnapping of Ralph Rudolf Schray by gunmen in Beirut.

The West German government last year refused a U.S. request to extradite Mohammad Hamadi to the United States.

A top-ranking member of

Abu Nidal captive refuses to free her two daughters

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestinian group holding eight Europeans, including two young French girls, released a videotape Tuesday in which their mother said she refused to let the girls go free.

A Belgian hostage in the same group, apparently speaking freely, admitted on the tape that he worked for Israeli intelligence as charged by the abductors.

Mother Jacqueline Valente said: "My children are very well. The Palestinian fighters would like to send them to their father but I refuse. I want to keep the children with me."

Valente appeared relaxed and in good health.

The videotape was issued by the Fatah Revolutionary Council

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet testified last week that the government refused to grant the U.S. extradition request to protect the two West German hostages.

The government promised instead to put Mohammad Hamadi on trial in West Germany on similar charges.

Klaus Arend, the presiding judge in Abbas Hamadi's trial, reacted angrily last Wednesday to reports of Schray's abduction, saying his court would not be intimidated.

"If the same circle of kidnappers is involved, it could make the situation tougher here and lead to the opposite effect of what could have been possible at his trial," Arend said.

Arend did not elaborate, but appeared to be warning that further kidnappings would neither force West German authorities to adopt a more lenient stance towards suspects nor win lighter sentences for them.

Government officials, who talked on condition of anonymity, said Monday they still have no evidence linking the latest kidnapping in Beirut to efforts to release the Hamadi brothers.

The West German government last year refused a U.S. request to extradite Mohammad Hamadi to the United States.

A top-ranking member of

FRC headed by Abu Nidal and delivered to media organisations in Beirut.

The FRC holds Valente, her two daughters Marie-Laure, five, and Virginie, six, as well as five Belgian nationals. It said on Nov. 8 it snatched them from a yacht off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

Laurent Houtekens, looking confident and not speaking from a text, said: "I am in a good health. I would like to draw everyone's attention to the fact that people working for the Israeli (intelligence service) Mossad asked us to travel to Israel."

"I have been used by Mossad in France and Belgium." Houtekens' father Emmanuel also appeared on the videotape. Both men appeared healthy,

The FRC said in December it was ready to release the sisters to their father, Valente's ex-husband Pascal Bettile with whom she has fought a legal battle for custody.

French mediator Lucien Bitterlin arrived in Beirut Sunday in a second attempt to secure the two girls' release but the FRC said Monday they did not want to leave their mother.

"The two girls are very attached to their mother. They are refusing to leave her. We cannot tear away these two daughters by force from their mother," Bitterlin told reporters in Beirut Monday.

Houtekens' father Emmanuel

also appeared on the videotape. Both men appeared healthy,

Schray release imminent

In Beirut, a pro-Syrian source said Tuesday strong Syrian-Iranian cooperation aimed at securing freedom for Schray is expected to bear fruit imminently.

The case is almost over. Everything is working positively and we expect him to be freed by Thursday. The parties concerned are still trying to find the right scenario for his release," the source said.

The source said the assurances resulted from mounting pressure on the kidnappers by Iran, which wields considerable influence over them, and Syria, Iran's main Arab ally in its seven-year-old war with Iraq.

"There is a firm Iranian-Syrian cooperation on the issue. The Iranians are using their influence on their Lebanese allies to end this crisis. They have been very cooperative in helping to gain Schray's freedom," he added.

The source said pro-Syrian Lebanese investigators also talked to Abdul Hadi Hamadi.

Schray's relatives say they were told Abdul Hadi Hamadi master-minded the abduction to press Boan to free his two jailed brothers.

The West German government last year refused a U.S. request to extradite Mohammad Hamadi to the United States.

A top-ranking member of

Italy jails 9 arms traffickers

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Nine people were convicted and 22 acquitted in connection with an international arms trafficking ring that allegedly sent weapons to the Middle East and offered sale of atomic bombs.

The stiffest sentence went to Glancio Partel, described as an Italian missile expert, who was given a prison term of seven years and eight months for criminal association and violation of arms laws.

Four other defendants, including Renato Gamba, once a leading Italian arms manufacturer, were convicted of criminal association and sentenced to terms ranging from two years and eight months to six years in prison.

Four others were convicted of violating arms laws and given sentences ranging from two years and eight months to three years.

They included Massimo Pugliese, once head of Italy's military industry.

Among those acquitted of all charges was Italian actor Rossano Brazzi, who gained international fame in the 1950s and 1960s for his roles in South Pacific and Three Coins in the Fountain.

The Blue Nile province has witnessed heavy fighting between the two sides for several months.

There is no independent way to confirm either army or rebel claims on fighting in the south which started in 1983 when the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) took up arms against the government.

The army spokesman would not confirm or deny the report.

In a related development, the minister of state for defence, Fadila Burma Nasir, said in a newspaper interview published Tuesday that military operations were currently under way to recapture Kapoeta, a town the rebels seized last month in Equatoria, Sudan's southernmost province.

Mahdi dismissed as untrue reports that the SPLA had captured or besieged several other towns in Equatoria.

Mahdi said the Juba airfield

would continue to mid-February.

A Reuters reporter who visited

Equatoria in late December reported that some 900,000 people in the region faced famine.

Food shortages in Bahr Al

Ghazal and Upper Nile — South

Sudan's two other regions

were even more acute, according

to foreign relief workers and local press reports.

Nasir said reinforcements

had been sent and necessary

security measures taken to "deterr" any new violations. He gave

Sudan reports killing 22 rebels

The rebels occupied Kurkuk and nearby Gizen for several weeks late last year, but the army regained the two towns later.

The SPLA radio broadcast said that 57 government troops were killed on the main road between Gizen and Ed Damazine, site of a major dam and power plant supplying most of the country's electricity.

The army spokesman would not confirm or deny the report.

In a related development, the minister of state for defence, Fadila Burma Nasir, said in a newspaper interview published Tuesday that military operations were currently under way to recapture Kapoeta, a town the rebels seized last month in Equatoria, Sudan's southernmost province.

Mahdi gave no details of when the military airlift began or

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Crown Prince reviews bilateral ties with Indonesian minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, conferred at the Royal Court Tuesday with Indonesian Minister of Youth Abdul Ghafour Edrisi, who is on a four-day official visit to Jordan.

The minister conveyed greetings from the Indonesian president for His Majesty King Hussein and for Prince Hassan, and lauded Jordan's role in promoting Arab-Islamic relations.

Edrisi also said that his country was looking forward to increasing its relations with Jordan in various fields.

During the audience, the Crown Prince stressed the importance of building strong bridges of cooperation between the two countries on all levels especially in the fields of youth, sports and culture. He said Jordan had always sought to strengthen its ties with Asian countries.

The Indonesian minister, who arrived here Monday, later visited the Queen Alia Health Centre at the Al Hussein Medical Centre. Accompanied by the Minister of Youth Abd Ghafour Khelef, the Indonesian minister toured the centre and was briefed

on its services.

Edrisi and Khelef later held talks at Al Hussein Youth City, reviewing bilateral cooperation in sports and youth.

Khelef briefed Edrisi on his ministry's programmes for developing sports centres, and the Kingdom's support for boy scout and girl guide activities, sports

federations and youth centres throughout the country.

The Indonesian minister described to Khelef the work of the Higher Council for the Welfare of Youth in Indonesia.

Later, the two ministers called at Al Ahli Sports Club, where they watched national folkdance performances.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday holds an audience with Indonesian Minister of Youth Abdul Ghafour Edrisi for discussions on bilateral cooperation in the fields of youth, sports and culture (Petra photo)

Princess Basma chairs advisory panel meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who is also chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) presided over a meeting for the recently-established Advisory Committee for Children's Programmes.

Participants in the Monday meeting studied ways to develop services at the 19 QAJSWF centres and to upgrade performance of staff at these centres.

It was agreed during the meeting to design training courses for kindergarten teachers, as well as

Zakat Fund to assist W. Bank, Gaza students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Zakat Fund (aims to the poor) has decided to extend financial assistance to needy students from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who are studying in the East Bank of Jordan.

A fund spokesman said that these students were cut off from their parents or relatives who were supporting them here as a result of the current uprising in the occupied territories.

The fund will hold contacts with the four universities on the East Bank in order to identify those eligible for the financial assistance, which is expected to be no less than JD 50 a month per student. A special committee will be set up to dispense the aid to the students, the spokesman added.

The Zakat Fund is affiliated with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

In the light of the uprising, a popular committee was formed last month by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to raise contributions for families of Palestinian martyrs who fell in the recent clashes with the Israeli occupation authorities. The committee has opened a special account for contributions with the Islamic Bank. Member of the committee Sheikh Mohammad Sharaq appealed to all citizens to contribute generously to the families of the martyrs as an expression of support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

During the meeting, Hmoud also briefed the delegation on the "green belt" project which aims to stem the encroachment of desert on arable land and the wildlife reserve scheme.

The EC-EIB delegation later called on the finance minister, who discussed with them investment opportunities in the Kingdom.

The EC delegation voiced satisfaction with the handling of loans and financial assistance in Jordan, and both sides agreed to maintain contacts and promote bilateral economic and trade relations.

Tabbaa' arrives in Tunis for economic council session

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tahiaa' Tuesday arrived here at the head of the Jordanian delegation, to the 44th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council which opens here today.

The council will discuss the role of the pan-Arab organisations and collective Arab security and work. In particular, it will review the recommendations of the 8-member ministerial committee which evaluated the situations of the specialised Arab League

organisations.

Earlier Tuesday, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General, Mohammad Al Saqqaf discussed with Tunisian Minister of National Economy Al Muntaser Al Zayyadi scopes of economic and commercial cooperation.

Saqqaf and Zayyadi discussed support for the Jordanian trade centre in Tunis and the arrangements currently underway for holding a Jordanian industrial exhibition in Tunis in April.

Haj Hassan, port director discuss Aqaba development

AQABA (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Tuesday voiced the government's interest in developing Aqaba port, in view of its role in supporting both the Jordanian and the Arab economy.

At a meeting with Aqaba Port Corporation Director General Eid Al Fayez, Haj Hassan said that the ministry gave special priority to the corporation's projects.

Fayez briefed the minister on the corporation's current operations, as well as its plans to upgrade the performance of its

staff. The corporation collected JD 37 million in 1987, according to its director.

After a tour of the port corporation, the minister inaugurated the services compound set up by the corporation to facilitate the work of merchants and navigation and clearing companies.

He then inaugurated Aqaba District Telecommunications Department, which was recently established to expand and modernise postal services in the district.

The minister wound up his tour with a visit to Aqaba railway station.

King arrives in Paris from Rome

(Continued from page 1)

ready to make a concrete contribution to promoting dialogue and increasing the chances for negotiations on the Middle East.

King Hussein met Pope John Paul Monday as part of a mandate he received at last November's Arab summit in Amman to represent Arab leaders in contacts with the Holy See.

After the meeting, the Vatican issued a statement strongly defending Palestinian rights and underlining its disapproval of Jerusalem's status as Israel's "capital."

The King's talks with Goria also dealt with the situation in the Gulf region and the need for putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

King Hussein also met Tuesday with former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who is chairman of the Italian Socialist Party and Giovanni Spadolini, Senate speaker, and discussed with them the developments in the Middle East region and the efforts made to convene an international peace conference.

The King met Italian President Francesco Cossiga Monday and briefed him on his talks in Amman last Saturday with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, according to Italian officials present at the meeting.

The King also met in Rome Monday night with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abdul Meguid who passed on a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The King arrived in Paris three hours after Mubarak departed for Rabat. Mubarak had spent three days in Paris discussing Mideast peace efforts with French government officials including Mitterrand.

Regent reaffirms support

(Continued from page 1)

minister and his delegation visited the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre, where they were briefed on the centre's development and activities. The centre is currently training 26 students from Kuwait.

Hindawi, Nouri visit Sahab school

Nouri was accompanied after

wards by Minister of Education Thouqan Hmouda on a visit to the Sahab Industrial School, where they inspected workshops and training facilities.

They also visited the University of Jordan and met President Abdul Salam Al Majali, who briefed them on the development of the university over the past 25 years and educational programmes.

"It was also mistaken when it attributed the uprising of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza to outside elements," Qasrawi said. "The

Jordan, EC hold talks on cooperation in development

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the European Community (EC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) met here Tuesday with the Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud and Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh for talks on Jordan-EC cooperation in implementing development projects in the Kingdom.

At a meeting with Hmoud, the delegation was briefed on Jordan's efforts to develop agriculture in the Jordan Valley region. The minister described problems encountered by farmers, particularly difficulties in marketing Jordanian products abroad in view of strong competition from East European countries and Turkey.

The Jordanian government has been applying the agricultural patterns system in order to diversify agricultural production and prevent bottlenecks in marketing, Hmoud said.

The government also set up the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) to control agricultural trade and the marketing of local produce, the minister added.

He said some of Jordan's crops had found their way into European countries, such as Britain, France, Switzerland and West Germany, in addition to being sold in Arab countries and the Gulf states.

Hmoud briefed the visitors on Jordan's endeavours to reclaim semi-desert land and highlands in order to increase food production, and said the government recently embarked on a JD 33-million project to develop the Zarqa River Basin, increasing agricultural land by at least five million dunums.

The minister also briefed the visitors on the development of the Hammam Basin — an area close to the borders with Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria. The joint project aims to develop pasture and increase animal wealth and improve the living conditions of the local inhabitants, Hmoud noted.

In the south, the government has leased state-owned land to local companies for agricultural development, particularly for increasing cereal production, he added.

During the meeting, Hmoud also briefed the delegation on the "green belt" project which aims to stem the encroachment of desert on arable land and the wildlife reserve scheme.

The EC-EIB delegation later called on the finance minister, who discussed with them investment opportunities in the Kingdom.

The EC delegation voiced satisfaction with the handling of loans and financial assistance in Jordan, and both sides agreed to maintain contacts and promote bilateral economic and trade relations.

Heavy rains, snow wreak havoc throughout Kingdom; one killed

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — At least one person was killed and extensive damage was caused to cars, homes and other property in two days of storms which brought heavy rain and snow to most parts of the Kingdom.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) reported that, in Bayader Wadi Seer, a young boy drowned as he was walking to school. CDD divers recovered the boy's body from a large pool of water which resulted from the rain, the report said.

The CDD also reported the flooding of homes and streets in low-lying areas of Amman, especially alongside the stream downtown and west of the city. Floods were also reported around the University of Jordan and Sweileh in the west, and Wadi Haddadah and Wahdat in the east.

CDD teams were also involved in reopening roads blocked by snow in a number of areas in the capital. Special teams also moved residents to safer ground after their homes were inundated by the rainwater.

The department warned that roads leading north were blocked with snow or affected by the rising water level.

According to the CDD, a truck skidded off the road and overturned near Qatraneh along the Desert highway leading south to Aqaba, and a fuel tanker overturned at Jweideh south of here, causing the contents to spill over the road, disrupting traffic.

The CDD also reported the injury of a woman involved in a road accident on the Queen Alia Airport highway when her car skidded on the slippery road.

A number of schools in Amman and the University of Jordan were closed due to the weather and road conditions.

The CDD reported damage to communication lines and electric power in Ajloun and other northern districts, where schools were

also closed. CDD teams offered assistance to the citizens on the roads and in flooded homes.

Along the Jerash-Irbid road, CDD teams helped those stranded on the roads because of report said.

In Jerash, a house collapsed as a result of the heavy rain, but no casualties were reported.

Roads and other property in Irbid Governorate were also damaged by the snow and rain; and CDD teams were reported on the alert to offer assistance.

CDD Director Lieutenant-General Khaled Tarawneh said that his department was on call to offer all assistance, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works, the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department.

Dakhgan later visited Wadi Al Arab dam which, he said, holds 12.5 million cubic metres of water. He added that the Kafrain dam now stores 4.5 million cubic metres of water.

Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Mohammad Bani Hani said that the rains did not cause any damage to the

crops in the Jordan Valley, but JVA teams were ready to offer assistance if needed.

In the meantime, the Department of Meteorology expects more rain and cold wind until Wednesday evening, as a result of the same polar cold front which has swept the country over the past two days.

Department Director Ali Abanda said that by Wednesday evening, the wind speed would be drastically reduced; but until then, more rain will fall and snow is expected in high regions of the Kingdom.

The two-day storm was preceded by a sand storm which brought hail and snow to regions 1,000 metres high.

According to the Meteorology Department bulletin, Wadi Seer and the University of Jordan area received largest amounts of rain. The bulletin added that snow fell mainly in the Maan, Jerash, Ajloun, Amman and Mafrat regions.



A palm tree thrives amidst a snow-covered lot in Amman (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 360



Drawing of: Feb. 2, 1988

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 57338 Wins JD 25,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,000 each wins JD 100
Holder of ticket No. 57337 57328 57238 56338 47338	57339 57348 57438 58338 67338
Holder of ticket No. 76671 Wins JD 6,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60
Holder of ticket No. 43744 Wins JD 3,000	76672 76681 76771 77671 06671
Holder of ticket No. 05853 Wins JD 2,500	76670 76661 76571 76671 66671
Holder of ticket No. 43497 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30
Holder of ticket No. 00182 Wins JD 1,200	43745 43754 43844 44744 53744
Holder of ticket No. 34998 Wins JD 1,000	43743 43734 43644 42744 33744
Holder of ticket No. 63362 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20
	05854 05863 05953 06853 15853
	05852 05843 05753 04853 47583
	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15
	43498 43407 43597 44497 53497
	43496 43487 43397 42497 33497
	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10
	00183 00192 00282 01182 10182
	00181 00172 00082 09182 70182
	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8
	34999 34908 34098 35998 44998
	34997 34988 34898 33998 24998
	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7
	63363 63372 63462 64362 73362
	63361 63352 63262

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Moral support and money

THE proposal by ten deputies in the Lower House of Parliament to levy a special tax to support the ongoing Palestinian uprising has rightly drawn mixed reactions. On one hand, there are those who champion this new tax as a way to help alleviate the economic hardships of the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation. They argue that the least that Arab spectators can do is subsidise the revolt. On the other hand, there are those who express fears about this additional tax, lest the showering of money on the uprising dampen the will of the people to sustain their rebellion.

Obviously, the correct approach lies somewhere in the middle; for dousing the occupied territories with money would surely act as water on fire. It is the old fear of resorting to material temptations to weaken the resolve of subjugated peoples by diverting their attention from their national political causes. But to leave the Palestinian people to starve to death could affect the same undesirable results. Material support to the Palestinian people to bolster their steadfastness is surely a worthy cause. In this context, one could think of two primary objectives in collecting the tax: to strengthen the economic infrastructure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip — the backbone of any viable steadfastness; secondly, to serve as an emergency fund to deal with emergency situations, such as the current situation in the occupied territories.

In short, Jordanians from all walks of life should pitch in to help their brothers and sisters in the West Bank and Gaza. After two months of strikes and a major interruption of economic life in the Arab territories, it would be in order to extend material aid to the Palestinian people struggling for liberation from Israeli occupation and suppression. Jordanians should act as the vanguard of Arab support for the noble Palestinian uprising. Yet this special responsibility which Jordan and all Jordanians should bear requires general Arab support, as well. The Arab World surely notes how Jews worldwide conduct active campaigns to fund the Israeli economy or subsidise its military and economic power. As long as there is something called Arab nationalism, and we think there is, the whole Arab World must come to the rescue of the Palestinians under occupation, by whatever means, including money.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Noble stands

KING Hussein conveyed to Pope John Paul appreciation and warm feelings from millions of Arabs for the Vatican's noble stands with regard to the cause of peace and justice in the Middle East. These feelings reflect the Arab people's yearning for peace, stability and end of suffering caused by Israel's occupation of Arab territory and inhuman treatment of Arab people. The King's visit to the Vatican and his meeting with the Pope came as the Israeli forces continue to escalate their inhuman practices and barbaric actions inside the occupied Arab lands, killing and wounding more Arab citizens. This visit came as the international community follows up with bitterness and horror the ongoing brutal activities and crimes committed by the Israeli army against the defenceless Palestinians. The Pope too feels the bitterness of the situation and the true dimension of this tragedy that had befallen the Palestinian people. The Pope realises that the Israeli iron fist policy has exceeded all limits and Israel's barbaric practices went beyond all dimensions, violating human dignity and making a mockery of all that the Vatican has sought to achieve of peace, tranquillity and stability in the holy land. For this reason, we believe that the King's visit to the Pope is of paramount importance at this stage and at a time when all holy places in occupied Palestine face violation and sacrifice, and when the people of the holy land face all forms of persecution, starvation and oppression. The Arab masses and all peace-loving nations look to the Vatican and the Pope with hope for an end to this tragedy.

Al Dustour: Appreciation for Pope's role

KING Hussein visited the Vatican Monday and met with the Pope in implementation of the Arab summit resolutions taken in Amman last November. The King who aims at intensifying the dialogue with the Vatican has conveyed the Arab World's deep appreciation for the Pope's appointment of an Arab as patriarch of Jerusalem and for the Vatican's stands with regard to the problem of Palestine and the city of Jerusalem. The meeting at the Vatican coincided with further escalation by the Israeli authorities of their repressive actions against the Palestinian people and also with favourable reactions from world nations which support peace moves. There is no doubt that the Pope has tremendous moral influence on many nations; and his declared stands have a strong bearing on their attitudes towards the Middle East crisis. For this reason, the Arab summit meeting entrusted the King to carry on the dialogue with the Vatican and seek all support and backing for a drive to end the sufferings of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule. There is no doubt also that the Pope's appointment of a Palestinian Arab, Michel Sabbah as patriarch of Jerusalem drew deep satisfaction and support from all Arabs, specially as this appointment came amidst an Arab uprising against Israeli rule and in the face of Israel's oppression. The King's meeting with the Pope ahead of his coming European tour emphasises the importance of the Vatican's role in the search for peace in our region. The Vatican meeting also coincided with a flurry of activity at the U.N. Security Council aimed at convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Sawt Al Shaab: King rallies Vatican support

KING Hussein's meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican comes in the course of the monarch's sincere and relentless efforts abroad to rally support for the Arab cause and bring about an end to Israel's oppression in the occupied Arab territory. The Arab summit in Amman has paved the way for the visit as the Arab leaders entrusted the King with the task of intensifying contacts with the Vatican and European countries to serve Arab causes. The visit could not have come at a more pressing time when the Arab territories under Israeli rule are facing oppression and when the Arab people are rising in the face of this oppression. The Pope who enjoys worldwide spiritual influence can play a major role in bringing about justice and removing persecution and ending the sufferings of the Palestinian people. The Arab masses look with hope to the King's endeavours around the world, and also take encouragement from the Vatican's noble stands and its support for a peaceful solution for the Palestine problem and the issue of Jerusalem which the Pope regards as a holy city of peace for all people.

Palestinian uprising causes stress in Israeli soldiers

By Peter Smerdon
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Confronting a Palestinian revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has scarred the psyche of many young Israeli soldiers, raising worries about their future behaviour, psychologists and military experts say.

"You must understand one thing," a 23-year-old soldier, who recently served in the West Bank, told Reuters. "If you don't behave as a conqueror, you can't survive there. You have to cut out thinking, be strong and do nasty things."

He asked not to be named because Israeli regulations bar soldiers from talking to journalists without permission. In this report, he is called "Avi."

To help cope with the mental stress of facing a hostile population, the Israeli army has sent psychiatrists to work with units in the occupied territories, military sources said.

Nearly 500 mental health workers placed a protest petition in Israeli newspapers last Friday warning that the government was placing young conscripts in "morally untenable situations."

Concern has heightened since Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin instructed the army this month to use "might, power and beatings" rather than guns to crush the Palestinian uprising. Rabin vowed at the weekend to continue the policy until "order was restored."

Avi said he and his comrades rarely discussed serving in the territories.

Difficult place

"I wish I was strong enough to do this work — mentally, not physically," he said. "I think, hope and believe most soldiers there are still human beings. It's very hard to judge them. They are in a bad situation where they were sent to a very difficult place with a difficult job."

None of the soldiers encountered on patrol at Ramallah and at nearby Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank was happy to be on the front line, but opinions on Rabin's policy

were split.

"Despite their training, this is an entirely new situation for which they were quite simply not prepared," he said.

"The worst thing was when we first had to beat up women," said Second Lieutenant Ofer, 21, his platoon commander.

"Now we do it more. At first we couldn't. The population makes the women get out in front and throw stones," he said.

"The women are more brave than the men. We don't beat the women as we would a man. We only use a club, not our hands..."

varied.

Avi said it was easy to become accustomed to the beatings after a time "because everyone is doing it, all your friends are doing it."

"You get new orders and after a day or two you get good at it and feel good about it. Soon you do things you never thought you could... I didn't let the few soldiers I commanded beat people unnecessarily."

"But our (mainly conscript) army is like all the Israeli people. You get some who want peace and don't like trouble at all and you get others who enjoy the fighting and hatred."

No compassion to Lebanon

Schiff, co-author of a book about Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and soldiers who served there, said the problems in the territories and across Israel's northern border could not yet be compared.

"No soldier has been killed in the territories since the rebellion started," Schiff said. Some 650 soldiers died in Lebanon before Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces in 1985.

"It's like comparing a table and a chair," said a lieutenant colonel from an armoured brigade at Bureij refugee camp in Gaza. "If we did our real job we could stop all this trouble in a day."

"I feel frustrated and very frightened as an Israeli soldier walking around and getting stones thrown at me. I feel powerless," said Tuvia, a conscript, who immigrated from Britain two years ago.

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The New York Times: Most corrupt administration in U.S. history

Iraqi pipeline probe may spell big trouble for Meese

By Valerie Strauss
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Edwin Meese, who has weathered sharp criticism over his job performance and federal probes into his financial affairs, faces perhaps his most serious challenge over his role in a \$1-billion Iraqi pipeline project.

Meese, who followed his friend Ronald Reagan from California to the White House in 1981, has been investigated by different independent prosecutors in the last few years for his tangled financial activities, including his involvement in the scandal-plagued Wedtech Corporation.

The probe has created scandal but failed to turn up evidence of wrongdoing on which to base criminal charges. Five weeks ago, special prosecutor James McKay said there was insufficient evidence to charge Meese with anything — but he also said the probe was continuing.

Now a new scandal has emerged over Meese's involvement in a \$1-billion Iraqi pipeline project and it could well be the most serious challenge the attorney general has faced. There have been suggestions that he resign rather than subject President Reagan to further embarrassment.

The scandal began when it was reported that McKay, who has been investigating Meese's financial affairs for months, was focusing on a 1985 memo to Meese from E. Robert Wallach, a long-time friend and associate who was trying to win U.S. government hacking and funds for the pipeline.

The Israeli connection

The Los Angeles Times, which revealed the existence of the memo on Jan. 29, said it discussed a plan to bribe a senior Israeli official to help prevent Israeli attacks on the pipeline once it was built. The project fell through and the pipeline was never built.

U.S. law prohibits bribes to foreign officials. The law specifically says the attorney general may take legal action to stop a violation when it appears the law may be broken.

Israeli officials have strongly rejected reports that bribes were paid, and Meese's lawyer, Nathan Lewin, denied Meese did anything wrong.

The White House has said



Edwin Meese

Meese enjoys Reagan's "full confidence" and officials have rejected suggestions that he resign — something he would almost certainly have to do if indicted on criminal charges.

But the reports have underscored the continuing trouble Meese has faced with charges of ethical impropriety and the balancing act the White House is being forced to perform as it struggles to support Meese but not impede McKay.

McKay's visit was significant because it was unprecedented. No other independent counsel has been known to brief U.S. officials on their probe.

Baker tried to minimise the level of official corruption uncovered in the last seven years has been so high that the New York Times recently said in an editorial that the administration ranks among the most corrupt in U.S. history.

While it is not clear how far along McKay is with his probe, it is believed the fact he met with Baker indicated the issue was very serious, more so than previous scandals surrounding Meese.

Also probed in 1984

In 1984, a special prosecutor

probed charges Meese had improperly helped friends with whom he had financial dealings to get government jobs. The investigation, which nearly blocked his confirmation as attorney general, ended with no charges being filed against Meese.

Meese has testified before the grand jury investigating the Iran-contra scandal, which may indict former White House aides John Poindexter and Oliver North in the Iran scandal.

Though Meese is not a target, he has come under scathing criticism for his 1986 investigation into the Iran scandal after North admitted he shredded key documents in his office as Justice Department officials worked just a few feet away.

McKay is also investigating whether Meese personally profited financially from his position, in one case whether he gained financially in return for helping Wedtech, a bankrupt New York defence contractor, win army contracts.

Other financial matters include questionable stock transactions by a financial consultant in charge of Meese's blind trust, and Meese's ownership of stock in telephone companies at the same time the Justice Department was urging a judge to ease restrictions on the companies.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Howard Baker, White House chief of staff, said on television Jan. 31 that McKay had come to the White House to reveal the pipeline probe.

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Also probed in 1984

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should be talking to the PLO if they wanted a settlement.

The veto followed impassioned speeches by more than a score of nations and last-minute, personal pleas from Palestinian leaders, including Hama Simona, editor of the newspaper Al Fajr in Jerusalem.

Resolution vetoed

The U.S. ambassador to the UN, Herbert Okun, explaining Monday's veto at the Security Council, said:

"It is an untimely effort to involve the Security Council on issues which are at this time best dealt with through diplomatic channels."

It was the second time in two weeks that Washington had blocked the adoption of proposals criticising Israeli policies. The 14 other council members voted in favour of Monday's draft.

The defeated resolution picked up Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's recommendation that Israel apply by law in the West Bank and Gaza Strip the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Civilians in Wartime and "correct its policies."

Despite the veto, Perez de Cuellar pledged to continue his peace efforts. "I don't feel that because this resolution was not allowed that I have to be arms-crossed," he told reporters.

In his Jan. 22 report, he again called for the convening of a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East. Israel rejected the idea.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy Zehdi Terzi rejoined that the Americans

should be talking to the PLO if they wanted a settlement.

The veto followed impassioned speeches by more than a score of nations and last-minute, personal pleas from Palestinian leaders, including Hama Simona, editor of the newspaper Al Fajr in Jerusalem.

Right-wing Industry Minister Ariel Sharon and Housing Minister David Levy both criticised the U.S. proposals.

Levy met leaders of the ultra-nationalist settlers and accused the Americans of distorting the Camp David peace accords.

Sharon, who demonstrated his support for the controversial Jewish outpost in the heart of the Gaza Strip Monday, called for a massive new Israeli settlement drive prior to any move on Palestinian autonomy."

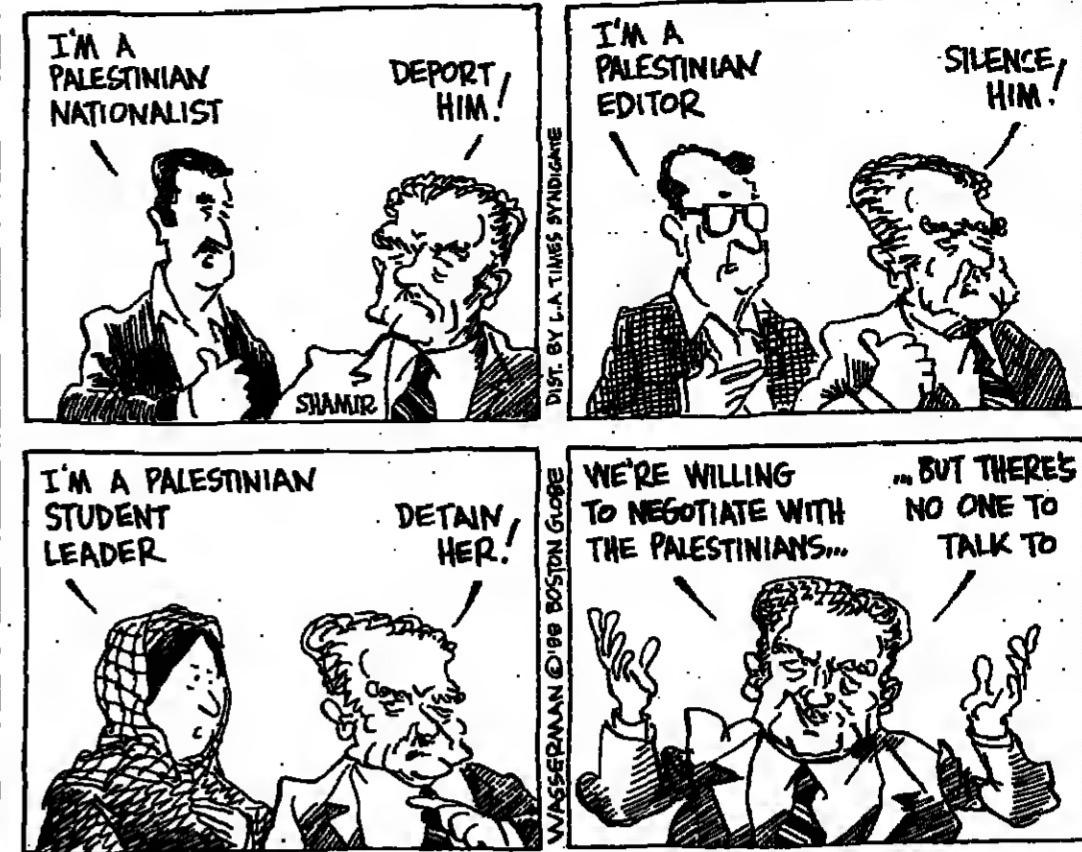
Sharon's spokesman Avi Pazner insisted the prime minister had agreed only to open negotiations on "full autonomy based on the Camp David accords."

He said Sharon would demand Israeli "sovereignty" over the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sharon had not endorsed specific U.S. proposals and was waiting to see whether the Arabs were ready to enter negotiations on the basis proposed by Washington, Pazner said.

Dismissing the idea of a revolt against Shamir, an aide to the prime minister said: "Levy is against it and maybe Sharon is against it... but even if they go together, Shamir is strong enough in the Likud."

Political sources said that, given expected Arab opposition to the U.S. ideas, the Israeli leader was unlikely to be put to the test.



The discredited notion of 'outside agitators'

By Mohammad Hallaj

ISRAEL has been caught again

with its make-up running. The vigorous and sustained popular uprising in the occupied territories, the vicious Israeli response, and universal condemnation have

Singapore takes on the 007 journalists

There is the prospect of worsening relations between the foreign press and the Singapore government, reports Roger Matthews, as the "James Bond School of Journalism" comes under fire.

SINGAPORE — The probability of a worsening conflict between the Singapore government and part of the Western media was clearly signposted more than 18 months ago.

In a colourfully controversial speech to resident foreign correspondents, Mr. S. Rajaratnam, long ago a member of the profession but now senior minister in the office of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, announced his discovery of the James Bond school of journalism.

Its disciples were apparently on the prowl in Asia and could be identified, said the minister, by their belief in the 007 journalistic licence to destroy the reputation of leaders and governments in the region.

Two British examples of this breed cited by the minister were Mr. Donald Trelford, editor of *The Observer* in London, and Mr. John Pilger, formerly of *Brian's Daily Mirror*.

He said that it was in anticipation of a possible coming conflict with the IBJs (James Bond journalists) that the government had moved to safeguard Singapore by amending the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act in August 1986. Under the terms of the amended act, the government has the power to reduce drastically the circulation of a publication which it judges to have meddled in the domestic politics of Singapore.

Those so far found guilty under the act have been some of the

best-known and generally well-regarded publications in the region: Time magazine, The Asian Wall Street Journal, Asiascope magazine, and most recently, the Far Eastern Economic Review. The resident correspondent of The Economist newspaper was dealt with outside the terms of the act. He was banned last year from speaking to officials for allegedly suggesting a split in the cabinet.

Time, having had its circulation chopped from 18,000 to 2,000 for refusing to print in full a letter of rebuttal from the government, has had the sanction lifted; The Asian Wall Street Journal is pursuing the issue through the courts; and the Far Eastern Economic Review has announced that, rather than see its circulation cut from 9,000 to 500, it will not circulate any copies at all in

of the magazine.

Singapore. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew is also suing the Review for libel and already has a case pending against the Sunday Star in neighbouring Malaysia.

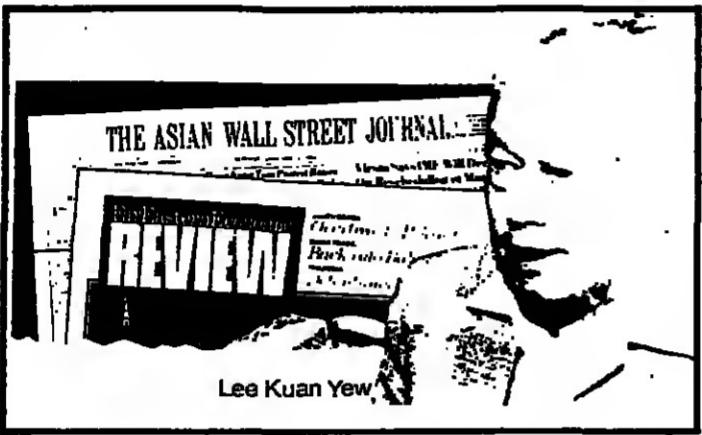
The government has sought to maintain throughout that it is not denying the freedom of Singaporeans to read what they wish, but rather that it is seeking to prevent foreign publications from profiting financially by writing and circulating inaccurate stories about Singapore.

Accordingly, it makes those publications available at public libraries where readers may also photocopy articles in which they are interested. So anxious is the government to maintain this principle that it is planning to counter the decision of the Far Eastern Economic Review not to make any copies available in Singapore by passing legislation to allow for the photocopying and distribution without financial gain — of government decisions.

The U.S. government also regretted the Singapore government's action, but what no Western government or publisher can deny is the right of a sovereign government to do whatever it wishes in a democracy so long as it enjoys the support of the electorate.

Although the issue of foreign publications in Singapore is unlikely to figure prominently on the list of topics to be considered in the run-up to the general election expected later this year, the government's attitude towards them may contribute to the perception the voters have of their representatives.

— Financial Times feature.



Homeless in Europe: 'Refugees in our land'

By Larry Thorson
The Associated Press

LONDON — Lyn Griffiths, 23, spent 45 weeks in a basement room of a bed-and-breakfast hotel with her toddler son Shane. Her husband was with her for three months, but she asked him to leave because "we were fighting and arguing and it wasn't fair on Shane."

"I don't know if you could imagine living in one tiny room," she said. "You have all your possessions in that room, all your clothes, children's toys, your books, no floor space. It's just impossible. It's too claustrophobic."

The Griffiths family is part of a growing tide of the homeless that threatens to burst through social safety nets in several West European countries.

They are attracting growing concern, including that of Britain's Prince Charles, who has gone incognito to check on the plight of people sleeping outdoors in London.

The Griffiths at least had a roof over their heads, but the hotel had no kitchen, so the family ate in cafés on a welfare allotment of £53 (\$95) a week and became ill because of poor nutrition.

They became homeless after moving from London to a new job in Dorset in southwest England. The job evaporated and in December 1986 they returned penniless to London, where the number of homeless families rose by 45 per cent to 5,750 in the past year, with many housed in B-and-B hotels.

Welfare authorities finally put the Griffiths family rent-free into a two-bedroom apartment in November. Husband and wife are back together and 3-year-old Shane is cheerful and pink-cheeked again.

It was a happy ending for them, but around Western Europe many others are living the bitter first part of the homeless story.



A street scene in Paris. The placard says: "We live on the street, our baby is 20 months old. We are hungry. Thank you for your kindness."

including political refugees, immigrants, down-and-outs, the poor, the unlucky, abused wives and runaways.

The homeless are "refugees in their own land," says a new report for a British charity, the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children. It worries that the thousands of British youngsters crammed into hotels are like the "children cast aside on dumpheaps" who inspired the founding of the charity in 1739.

In Paris, gray police vans cruise in search of the down and out, and bundle them to the 100-year-old Maison de Nanterre in the western suburbs for a shower and a bed for the night. But at Nanterre, "even with all the best intentions, it becomes a situation which can be a little bestial," says Francois Lambert, director of a centre for the homeless. Those people are put back on the streets each morning.

Political refugees too

Political refugees and immigrants often turn up among the homeless or people receiving housing assistance, according to a survey by Associated Press bureaus in Western Europe.

In Sweden, an estimated 20,000 refugees took up one-quarter of the 1986 social welfare budget of 4 billion kronor (\$660 million) which helped 308,800 households meet their needs.

The number of the truly homeless in Europe is probably not on the scale of the United States, where federal government estimates range from 250,000 to 2 million — approaching 1 per cent of the U.S. population.

West European countries almost all have laws requiring the government to house everyone, and Europeans tend to look with some amazement at tales of the homeless living amidst sumptuous luxury in the United States.

"You can't compare our system to the U.S.," said Kurt Danielsson, information secret-

ary at the ministry of social affairs in Sweden.

"According to Swedish law, every person in this country has the right to a place to live and the society is obliged to help in all possible ways."

Numbers swell in winter

In winter, the number requiring assistance swells. In France, the authorities supply accommodation for 30,000 homeless through most of the year, but 38,000 in the winter.

The migration of the homeless to Paris in the winter is a "very important phenomenon," said Philippe Lafouge, director of the city social aid office. The winter influx includes seasonal workers, people from the north of France and some foreigners, he said.

Much of Britain's homelessness is concentrated in London, which has unemployment well below the 9.5 per cent national level and draws people with prospects of jobs.

The bed-and-breakfast solution is widely criticised as extravagantly expensive. London boroughs spent £62 million (\$113 million) in 1987 on such housing, paying hotels £200-500 (\$360-900) a week to house a family — more than enough to make mortgage payments on a new house. But the law makes no provision for the poor to be given title to homes, only to house them.

The south London borough of Lambeth issued an appeal in November to owners of vacant houses to lease their properties at attractive rents, with theborough taking over maintenance. The borough got a surprisingly vigorous response, and was able to house immediately some 20 families of former Vietnamese boat people who were evicted from a bed-and-breakfast hotel.

Charities report a problem of turnout among British social workers, who know they have no real solution — a home — to offer. "This leads to a situation where powerless workers are talking to the powerless homeless, with all the distress this

brings on both sides," said a Coram Foundation report.

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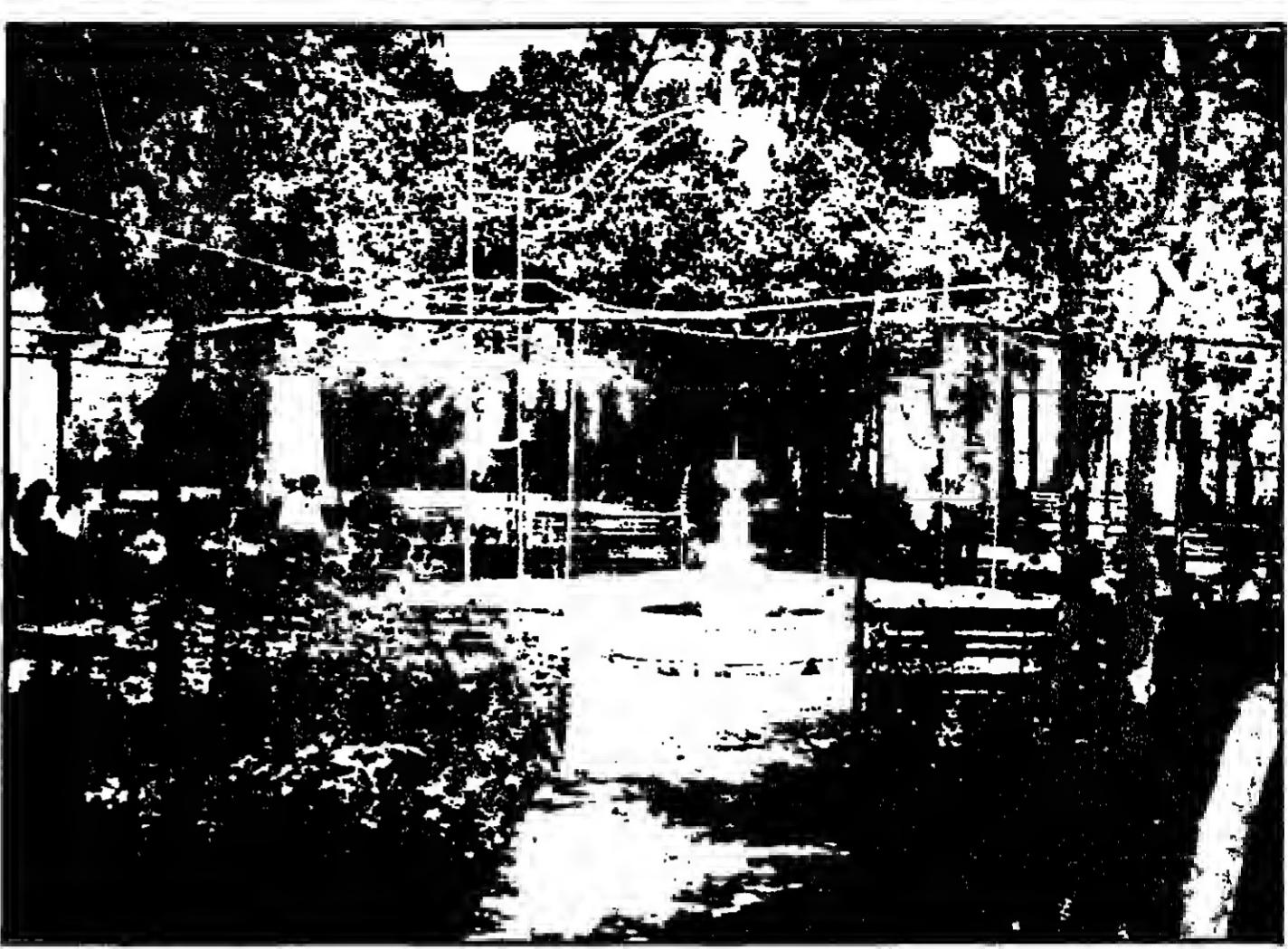
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The public library's park in central Nablus (File photo)

50 Israeli women visit Nablus

By Rayna Moss

FIFTY Israeli women in the centre of Nablus draw as much attention as would a group of nudists.

In the tension ridden atmosphere of the occupied territories, we are aware of the stares and questions we cause, but there seems no way to explain ourselves at this stage.

We are soon approached by four young men. "Do any of you speak Arabic?" I say I do. "Do you have any business with the municipality here? Are you waiting for someone?" The tones are severe. "We are a delegation of democratic Israeli women here to express solidarity with the residents of the occupied territories."

The four break into smiles and the words *Harakat-al-Salaam* (the peace movement) are repeated over and over while some dozens of people crowd close to hear the conversation and other such groups are formed. "What parties are you from?" "The entire left," we answer, "the Progressive List, Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, Democratic Women's Movement, the feminist movement. We're all united today. That's fine!"

One woman asks why all the questions. "People are nervous, you know," he answers. "We saw you are all women, but still wanted to see who you are. We see that you're good people and thank you for your solidarity. We welcome you and all Israelis who love peace. Welcome to Nablus, al-sahlan wa sahan."

We are soon bombarded with invitations to meet unionists, to visit homes of detainees and martyrs, to witness the destruction the Israeli army has inflicted during the past weeks. Many come forward to speak about the hardships they suffer. "We live in a city, but now it's just like a refugee camp." There is also advice: "We won't be allowed to enter Balata camp, the army is camped outside and there's no use trying." Let them try, someone else says, "they should see what their army does. Maybe they'll be allowed." It seems no

one is sure if the curfew on the camp is still on.

Soon we are met by members

of the local women's union, who will take us to Far'a refugee camp, and Tubas, a nearby village.

As we wait for taxis, the crowd around us grows to over a hundred. When we arrive in Far'a, this scene repeats itself. Here, an older woman approaches us, asking who we are. A few minutes later we are surrounded by what seems to be half the camp's population. Children of 14 and 15 who had been detained for 18 days in the infamous Far'a prison are brought forward to speak about their experiences. Were you beaten?

What do you think, an older boy answers, they weren't taken on a field trip. The conversation is mainly in Hebrew — almost all working men work inside the '48 borders. The tones are angry, Far'a camp has two martyrs, 12 wounded and 28 detained awaiting trial. "Why don't we bear your voice if you want peace so badly?" "What have you been doing all this time while our uprising was going on?" It is useless to speak about the pickets and demonstrations which took place all over Israel. The people are convinced we could have done much more. "Why didn't you come when we were demonstrating?" "You're always too late." "At least they come now," another says, "let them write about us in their papers. You should know that your army is like a Nazi army — we're treated like you were in Europe."

A separate group of women forms in a side alley, but doesn't mix with the main group. Some Israeli women go to them and soon women pour from the surrounding houses. Others lean out of balconies. Mothers of detainees, schoolgirls, women who treated the wounded and hid children from the army, all are eager to talk.

We walk through the camp using alleys and paths pointed out by the children. They know that if the army sees us and the dozens

of local people who have joined us, we will be declared an illegal demonstration and trouble will come. As it is, people lean out of windows to ask if there's a demonstration today and if we've come to participate. "No demonstration today," our hosts answer. "Too bad, they should see what happens!" At this stage we learn that three of our taxis have been stopped at the roadblock and turned back to Nablus, after the commanding officer declared the place a "closed military area". Only local residents are allowed in. A young man who happened to be in one of the taxis is let in, but is then caught by the soldiers patrol who have been alerted to look out for him. He is accused of being our organiser and beaten before being released.

In Tubas, two families join their mourning. We drink bitter coffee and join the women. A relative describes one of the martyrs' deaths, his courage and honour.

Another woman recites a poem by Mahmoud Darwish and the bereaved mothers burst into tears. Later we visit some of the wounded. A grandmother describes the way she stood in her doorway telling the soldiers they could arrest her but not her children.

A young girl who was wounded by a live bullet is afraid to sleep in the hospital for fear of being arrested there. Another tells us about her aunt, who recently underwent surgery but refused to stay in bed to help care for the wounded. Food was prepared collectively and handed out in the streets to allow as many people as possible to join "our popular uprising."

Older women prepared wet blankets to throw over tear gas grenades. Their pride in their mobilisation is great, yet they are bitter and angry. "We are fighting for our homeland, our dignity and for peace. Why do they kill us?" — Middle East International, London.

The worst punishment

The following article by Gadi Yatziv of the Israeli newspaper *Al HaMishmar* is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

"WHAT IS IT that you can't understand about it? Expulsion is the most severe punishment at our disposal, which is why we must be allowed to impose it," a friend serving as a professional officer in the IDF asked me during a discussion we had about Israel's strong arm policy in the territories. A senior army officer, he added for my enlightenment that "no other measure is more effective with the population of the territories."

"What makes expulsion such an effective punishment?" I asked, trying to draw him out. "After all, arrest and detention are, on first sight, far worse punishments. The man you have expelled can live a normal life among his nearest and dearest; he can work, have fun and see the world. A prisoner, on the other hand, is cut off from the world," he replied in a puzzled way. Yet the man is a senior officer, an academic and a graduate of a 3-year course in Middle East Studies. "Don't lose faith now, just calmly pay attention to what he says and restrain yourself," I told myself as I listened to him.

"So, all you conclude from the Arab trait of greatly loving one's homeland is that expulsion is an effective punishment," I questioned him. "I can't see what you are getting at," he replied in a puzzled way. Yet the man is a senior officer, an academic and a graduate of a 3-year course in Middle East Studies. "Don't lose faith now, just calmly pay attention to what he says and restrain yourself," I told myself as I listened to him.

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Moves launched for participation in Olympic professional basketball

By Neasa Stankovic
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT — American professional basketball stars could be playing Olympic basketball in 1992 if the International Amateur Basketball Federation (FIBA) congress approves its governing board's recommendation.

FIBA Secretary-General Bora Stankovic said Monday the governing board has proposed a change in eligibility rules that would open the Olympics and world championships to men and women professionals.

The board will convene an extraordinary FIBA congress in April 1989 to put the proposal to vote.

"Under the proposal, national basketball association stars would be able to play at the Olympics and world championships," Stankovic told the Associated Press.

The move has to be formally approved by FIBA's extraordinary congress in April 1989 in Munich, West Germany, but he said there were "excellent chances" that it will be accepted.

If the congress votes in favour of the proposal, NBA and other professionals would be eligible for the 1990 world championships in Argentina and the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

FIBA has 173 member federations and a simple majority of

and world championships is primarily directed at opening these events to NBA stars," Stankovic said.

He said FIBA had already talked with International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials about the proposal and "they are all for it."

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch has led a drive to allow more professionals to compete at the Olympics, including tennis and hockey stars.

The IOC usually follows eligibility rules put forward by the federations governing individual sports.

Stankovic said the U.S. members of the board, Bill Wall, opposed the move because the U.S. federation wasn't sure the NBA would go along and make provisions in its calendar that would free the league's stars for the olympics.

Also, the Americans are concerned that the inclusion of NBA stars would make the U.S. team virtually unbeatable, making Olympic tournaments a no-contest, he said.

"We think there are excellent chances that the congress will accept the board's recommendation," said Stankovic, a Yugoslav whose term as secretary-general was extended by the board until 1996.

"The move to allow professionals to compete at the Olympics

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Seoul expects profits from Olympics

SEOUL (AP) — Seoul expects a profit from this year's Summer Olympics in the South Korean capital, organisers said Tuesday. Olympic organising committee staff said total income now was expected to reach about \$1.19 billion, about \$196 million more than originally expected. Organisers had tried to make ends meet by setting both income and expenditures at \$997 million, although the games are expected to cost up to \$3 billion, including indirect costs such as investment in road expansion and environmental projects. The officials said the revenue beyond that originally anticipated would come from sources ranging from emblem and ticket sales to sales of commemorative coins. Officials said much of the income would come from sales of television rights, expected to exceed \$404 million.

5 cities bid to host 1994 Winter Games

LAUSANNE (R) — Five cities met the deadline for applying to stage the 1994 Winter Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has said. An IOC spokeswoman said Monday that Anchorage in Alaska, Östersund in Sweden and Sofia made their formal applications before the deadline of Sunday midnight. Lillehammer (Norway), a previous unsuccessful bidder like the other three, and Lausanne, where the IOC is based, submitted their bids last month. The Spanish town of Jaca had been expected to apply to host the games. But the spokeswoman said no application was received by the deadline. The choice for 1994 will be made in Seoul on Sept. 15 during this year's Summer Olympics.

Budd not welcome, says New Zealand

WELLINGTON (AP) — South African-born runner Zola Budd is not welcome in New Zealand for the world cross-country championships in March. Federal Minister for Sport and Recreation Peter Tapsell said Tuesday, Budd has been selected for the British team to compete at the championships, scheduled to be held in Auckland on March 26. "The fact that under IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) rules Budd is eligible to run in the race doesn't mean that the government considers it acceptable for her to take part," Tapsell said in a statement. "We don't want her here and believe the rules should be changed to exclude all holders of passports of convenience, I shall make that quite clear when the championships are held." Although Budd is a British citizen, Tapsell said he could understand why many people regarded her as a South African.

Portsmouth wins cup tie

LONDON (R) — Portsmouth manager Alan Ball, midfield star of England's 1986 World Cup triumph, said it was typical of his team they made things difficult for themselves in the A.C. cup tie Monday against Sheffield United. Ball said after First-Division Portsmouth beat their Second-Division rivals 3-1 in a home fourth-round match: "We gave them an early goal but that's my team for you. They can't do anything easily." Portsmouth were a goal down in 21 seconds to Tony Phillips. They equalised through Kevin Dillon after 26 minutes and Mick Quinn stooped to head the winner seven minutes later. Portsmouth next plays Bradford City, another Second-Division side, for a place in the quarter-finals.

MAID WANTED

A Jordanian family needs a maid to work for and live with the family.

Please call tel. 641080/652747.

Redskins give NFC four Super Bowl victories in a row, set eyes on 1988

SAN DIEGO, California (AP) — Super Bowl winners don't repeat. So, after the Washington Redskins lost to New York in the National Football Conference (NFC) title game a year ago, Charles Mann was rooting for the Giants in the Super Bowl. That way, the Redskins would have a chance this year.

Mann's double wish came true Sunday when the Redskins went on a record-breaking binge that included 35 second-quarter points to rout the Denver Broncos 42-10, becoming the fourth straight NFC team to capture a lopsided National Football League (NFL) championship.

That led Redskins coach Joe Gibbs to face the inevitable questions Monday about the difficulty of repeating as NFL champion. No team this decade has won two straight Super Bowls.

Gibbs' response: "I just want to get through our division first."

The last two Super Bowl winners, the Giants and Redskins, came from the NFC East, and Gibbs said he believes it's the toughest division in football.

"I thought that if any team around could repeat it was the Giants because they were solid at every position," he said of last year's champions, who fell victim to a terrible strike team, injuries and post-Super Bowl malaise, finishing last in the division with a 6-9 record.

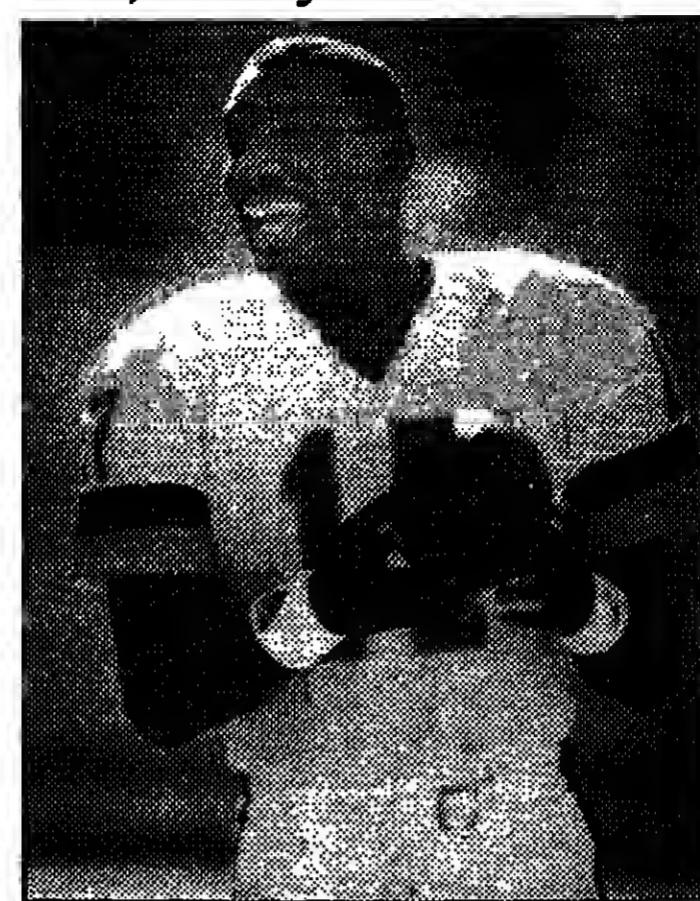
That gives the Giants an easy last-place schedule next season. They get to play Detroit twice and Kansas City, while the Redskins are facing the likes of Chicago and Cleveland.

"I think the Giants are mad about what happened this year and will come roaring back," Gibbs said. "I think Philadelphia is coming on, and so are the Cardinals."

The NFC has won the last four Super Bowls by a composite score of 165-56 with 14 of those 56 points coming on fourth-quarter touchdowns as the NFC team was cruising with a big lead. In fact, the fewest points by any NFC Super Bowl team over that period was the 38 scored by San Francisco in its 38-16 victory over Miami in 1985.

Gibbs refused to acknowledge conference domination.

"Each of those games are totally separate," he said. "I don't see it as AFC-NFC. Each of those teams got hot for a day. What takes over and contributes to a



Doug Williams

lopsided game is difficult to understand."

Offensive tackle Mark May said after Sunday's game the Redskins were able to outmuscle the Broncos — as the Giants did — because they are used to physical games within the division.

Gibbs said he believed there was a lot to be said for intrateam competition, the same kind he will have at running back with George Rogers, Kelvin Bryant and Timmy Smith. Smith, a surprise starter in Rogers' place, set another record with 204 yards rushing, yet got just a half a vote for MVP to Williams' 10%.

Smith's rushing and Williams' passing contributed to yet another record — 602 total yards offense, which also included 193 yards receiving by Ricky Sanders, another record by another non-MVP.

"I don't think we're a dominant team," Gibbs said. "It's so fleeting in the NFL today. In Washington, everyone wants you to win every game or they get on you."

"For a coach it would be great if you're retiring. Or may be just let the team quit and not play the next year after it wins a Super Bowl."

Internal contention

There also is expected to be some contention for the quarterback spot between 26-year-old Jay Schroeder, the incumbent entering this season, and 32-year-old Doug Williams, who threw for a record 340 yards and four touchdowns to be named the

Super Bowl MVP.

Williams' performance in the

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Jordanian-Iraqi company to buy 150 Renault trucks

By a Jordan Times Staff writer

AMMAN — The French company Renault Vehicles Industriel (RVI) has won a JD 3,927 million contract from the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (JILTC) to provide 150 trucks to help boost JILTC's transportation capabilities and promote trade between Jordan and Iraq.

Under an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday, the French company will supply the trucks by June this year and will also provide training for Jordanian and Iraqi personnel in France and in Jordan. Moreover, Renault will send a team of French technicians to offer on-site training.

The terms of the agreement call for the French company to guarantee the maintenance of the trucks for one year and to dispatch a mobile maintenance workshop for this purpose to Jordan and to build a maintenance garage and hanger at the port city of Aqaba.

The agreement was signed by JILTC Director-General Jamil Ibrahim and by Jean Robert Fayet, sales manager at RVI Middle East Department.

Following the signing ceremony, Ibrahim said that upon the arrival of the first consignment, the JILTC will have a total of 900 trucks to help transport goods from Aqaba to Iraq.

Large quantities of goods have been arriving in Aqaba since the beginning of last year warranting more trucks to be employed to transport the goods to their destination, Ibrahim said. He added that the JILTC also needs to upgrade its operational capacity to meet future developments and expansion.

The new trucks will create new jobs for more people and will help ease the congestion of goods accumulated at the port of Aqaba, Ibrahim noted.

He said that another agreement will soon be signed with a Yugoslav company for supplying 150 trailers to be added to the trucks to help transport goods to Iraq.

Committee prepares study on Jordan's milk output

AMMAN (J.T.) — The average milk yield of licensed and unlicensed farms in Jordan is approximately 64 tonnes per day, of which 33 tonnes are supplied by individual cow owners in rural areas, according to a report published Tuesday in the Arabic newspaper Al Dustour.

The report said that a special committee for assessing milk yields and marketing outlays has met twice during the current month to study the volume of milk yields for the current year. The study will also determine the number of cows to be imported in

light of the capacity of dairy firms for processing milk.

According to the report, farms have yielded the average of 53 tonnes per day of milk during the past year. Forty eight tonnes were produced daily during winter and 58 tonnes in summer, the study said. The production has been distributed to automated and manual dairy firms throughout the Kingdom.

The study estimated the local milk yield to be 18 tonnes per day in excess of the capacity of the processing dairy firms in winter.

Nissan recalls 237,981 cars

TOKYO (AP) — Nissan Motor Co., Japan's second largest car maker, has notified the transport ministry it will recall 237,981 passenger cars because of defective parts connecting the rear axle to the car body, the ministry said Tuesday.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Fletcher Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some changes in your present methods may be necessary to make them workable, so don't be afraid to use your imagination in making them. Think carefully before taking any actions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A co-worker can give you some fine suggestions, so be sure to ask others for advice if you have questions. Drive carefully this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If there is some little risk you want to take, then go for it and you can come out on top. Be sure to handle your money wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have some good ideas for improving relationships with your family, but you must act quickly to get the right results.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't get emotional over business affairs — stay cool and sensible. Enjoy the company of some old friends tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Although you are usually quite generous by nature, this is a good time to tighten your belt and add to your assets instead.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get together with some new acquain-

tances who have tastes similar to your own. You'll have a good time and make some great contacts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Since you have some free time now, this would be a good day to catch up on any duties you left unfinished. Be kind and considerate to your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good friend who is a bit of a perfectionist can help you sort out a financial difficulty. Be sure to show your gratitude for the assistance.

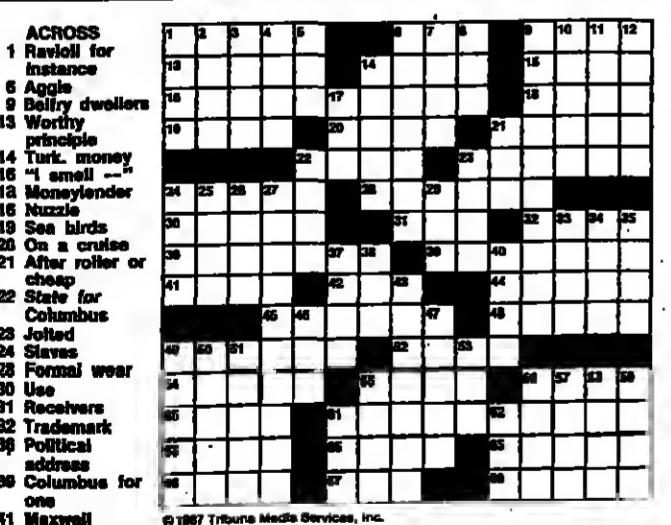
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you need the favor of a superior, this is definitely the right time to ask for it. Go out visiting with your mate tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be alert to some new opportunities which are coming into your life. If you have to plan a trip, make safety your first consideration.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This is a good day to analyze both your assets and your liabilities so you will know better how to proceed financially in the days ahead.

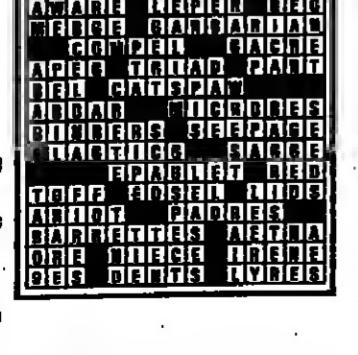
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Have a long talk with some business partners and come to a meeting of the minds. Leave yourself time to relax tonight.

THE Daily Crossword



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Debt repayments exceed IMF lending by \$5.9b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF), said Monday that Third World debtors in 1987 paid back \$5.9 billion more than they borrowed from one of the major sources of help to countries in financial trouble.

The fund's monthly "IMF Memorandum" explained that the excess of repayments was due to big receipts from 10 countries: South Korea, Brazil, India, South Africa, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Pakistan, Hungary, Romania and Portugal. Some borrowed heavily in the early 1980s, and the debts are coming due.

"The fund was set up for shorter-term help," said James Orr, executive director of the Bretton Woods Committee. "Now the focus is shifting to longer term lenders like the World Bank."

The Bretton Woods Committee is a private group of former U.S. government officials and leaders in private finance set up to lobby in favour of the bank and fund.

Some World Bank lending has been for as long as 50 years at less than one per cent annual interest, although loans are now limited to 40 years.

The fund pointed out that it also is planning longer-term loans, for as long as 10 years at only 0.5 per cent interest. At the end of 1987, it set up the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility to lend not more than \$8 billion on these terms to the poorest countries, especially in Africa.

British banks raise interest rates

LONDON (R) — Britain's main commercial banks raised lending rates by half of a percentage point to nine per cent Monday after the Bank of England raised its rate for loans to money markets.

The announcement by the Bank of England that it would offer borrowing facilities to the discount houses at nine per cent from the current 8.5 per cent followed its warning that monetary policy might have to be tightened.

National Westminster Bank Plc. and Barclays Bank Plc. followed the Bank of England's lead and raised their base rates to nine per cent from 8½. Midland Bank Plc., Lloyds Bank Plc. and Citibank N.A. — the British subsidiary of Citicorp — later followed suit.

John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said the increase would add £125 million (\$219 million) a year to business costs.

Base rates were lowered to 8½ per cent in early December amid widespread fears among the international financial community that last October's stock slumps would follow through into recession.

But economists said the bid to pump more money into nervous markets that have now steadied was bad for Britain's surging economy.

Bank of England officials said the signal to raise interest rates reflected a resurgence in inflationary pressures, mainly higher wage earnings and a continuing growth in consumer spending.

Average earning increases now stand at 8.25 per cent a year after having held at 7.75 per cent since last April.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were mixed in easier late business, showing only a short-lived rally in response to news of a number of U.S. banks cut their prime rates by ¼ point to 8½ per cent.

Dealers said hopes for a Wall Street rally this week have been based on speculation about lower U.S. interest rates. But the New York market fell to its lows this afternoon despite the prime rate cuts. The FTSE 100 at 1538 GMT was down 1.3 to 1,775.6 after a high of 1,784.5 at 1032 GMT.

U.S. December leading indicators fell 0.2 per cent compared with the November fall of 1.2 per cent, dampening down the dollar and outweighing the prime rate cuts, dealers here said.

Dealers said last minute worries about the prospects for Tuesday's \$9.25 billion auction of U.S. treasury three-year notes were weighing on Wall Street Tuesday.

It had been hoped the auction would attract strong demand, because prospects for a slowing in the U.S. economy and the recently stable dollar helped the U.S. bond market climb sharply in the "flight to quality" of the past few sessions.

UNDP to resume operations in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) will shortly resume operations in Lebanon after it pulled out in 1984 due to the security situation, the United Nations announced Monday.

But it will be careful about the nationality of any experts sent to the area, UNDP administrator William Draper told a news conference.

Lebanon has been embroiled in civil strife since 1976 and many foreigners have been kidnapped by various militia groups.

The resident representative in Beirut will be Ragnar Gudmundsson, a national of Iceland who is

now deputy head of the UNDP post in Kabul.

Gudmundsson, 51, who will take up his post in Lebanon in late February, was also named Monday to be U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon.

Draper said Lebanon's per capita income had dropped

sharply in the last 10 years to under \$700 a year, and it had now fallen into the category of a "least developed country," he said.

"It became evident that some leadership and direction was needed to support the development of a country that desperately needs help in development," he noted.

He said the UNDP operation in Lebanon would spend about \$10 million over the next three to five years.

"While I think it was probably the right thing to do to close the (UNDP) office at a time when there seemed to be a very complicated security situation, we think now the situation is now calm

enough to try again and make it a more effective programme," Draper said.

"We are going to make another try and we plan to make it stick this time," he added.

Asked about the security of technical experts sent to work on development projects, he said: "We will be careful to see that no one that goes is, by nationality, in danger."

This would "probably" rule out United States and West German nationals, he said, as well as citizens of other countries represented in the 15-nation U.N. Security Council, though he did not want to be pinned down on that point.

Turks buy Algerian gas

ALGIERS (AP) — Turkey signed a contract Tuesday with Algeria for the purchase of 40 billion cubic metres of liquified natural gas over the next 20 years, officials said.

The agreement came at the end of the fifth session of the Algerian-Turkish mixed commission, and also included the creation of two joint holding companies.

The companies, one in the industrial and financial area and the other commercial, will be charged with creating joint com-

panies in both countries and in third countries.

The agreement also provides for an increase in the volume of trade between Turkey and Algeria, scheduled to reach \$1 billion by 1990, according to Kazim Ozay, the minister of state who headed the Turkish delegation.

Other agreements were signed for the purchases of grain and dried vegetables, technical and scientific cooperation and on charged with creating joint com-

panies buying into the fund would not be allowed to repatriate their capital from the investment in 12 years.

But they will be allowed to retain dividends and to sell the shares after five years, if they kept the proceeds in Brazil.

The Brazil conversion fund is run by British merchant bank Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd. and Brazil's Banco Brizann Simonson De Investimento S.A., which says it is the first of its kind.

It works along much the same lines as the debt-for-investment swaps that many Third World debtor countries are already using to trim their debt bills.

In these deals, the country buys back foreign currency loans with its local currency. It pays its bankers back less than it borrowed and the seller must agree to reinvest the proceeds.

Congressional opponents predict contra aid defeat

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan planned a pre-vote appeal for further funds for Nicaraguan contra rebels in a televised speech but opponents said they expected Congress would defeat the White House aid measure.

The House of Representatives is due to vote Wednesday on Reagan's \$36.25 million request for contra aid, which includes \$3.6 million in the military aid. If the House approves the measure, the Senate will vote on Thursday.

Reagan and his advisers have been telephoning undecided congressmen to urge them to approve the contra aid.

Reagan, who argues that only aid to the rebels can force Nicaragua's leftist government to accept peace and democracy, hoped to use a nationally televised speech to put public pressure on the Democrat-controlled Congress.

But his strategy suffered a blow when all three major U.S. networks announced they might not broadcast the speech live because Reagan's arguments for contra aid were already well known.

Such action by ABC, NBC, and CBS would relegate the speech to cable television and extracts carried in news programmes.

Democratic leaders have been urging rejection of the military aid and a private organisation calling itself "Countdown '87" has sponsored national television advertisements urging voters to put pressure on their members of Congress to reject the measure.

House Democratic leader Thomas Foley predicted Monday that the House would turn the aid request down. "I think we will at the conclusion of the debate Wednesday a decisive rejection of this aid," Foley said.

Democratic leaders in the House and Senate had vowed not to approve military aid as long as progress was being made on a peace plan approved by all five Central American presidents in August.

But Reagan has said in recent days that only aid to maintain contra military pressure on Nicaragua's Sandinista government could make Managua accept the Central American peace plan and stop promoting Communism in the region.

"The Sandinistas haven't made one concession of their own without a threat hanging over them," Reagan told religious broadcasters Monday. "The way to democracy and peace in Nicaragua is to keep the pressure on."

Reagan aides are considering a further concession to Congress in an effort to win the aid. White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater told reporters.

In Managua, Nicaragua, about 250 U.S. citizens and Nicaraguans chanting "we want peace" staged a demonstration Monday evening in front of the U.S. embassy to protest U.S. aid to the contra rebels.

About 25 Nicaraguans wounded in the war sat in wheelchairs in front of the embassy building, carrying a sign in Spanish saying "the war wounded continue to fight for life."

The rally, which was peaceful, was sponsored by U.S. and Nicaraguan church groups. Folk singer Pete Seeger, wearing a straw hat, sang for the group.

which planned to maintain an all-night vigil at the embassy and begin a hunger strike Tuesday, organisers said.

An Illinois farmer released by the Nicaraguan government after 56 days in prison said Monday he opposes aid to the contra rebels out of gratitude for those who gained his freedom, even though he had once helped the guerrillas.

Koivisto needed to poll over 50 per cent to clinch victory in the first round. But with two other left-wing candidates gaining 27 seats in the Electoral College, analysts said his election was a formality.

"It's a certainty," one Western diplomat said.

Conservative Prime Minister Harry Holkeri, one of four defeated candidates, said: "I lost to the incumbent president. We all lost to Koivisto."

The result was widely seen as an endorsement of Koivisto who has won his country into an era of rare political stability and unprecedented economic prosperity.

In a typically understated post-election comment, Koivisto said: "At least, we can say there has been no protest against the policies that have been carried through."

Koivisto, a carpenter's son, became president in 1982 and quickly placed his imprint on the turbulent political scene.

Before he came to power, governments rarely lasted a year. In its 70-year history, the country has had 64 administrations.

Diplomats said the key to Koivisto's success was his ability to establish good working relations with four successive Soviet leaders since winning power in 1982 — Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov, Konstantin Chernenko and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet Union twice defeated Finland in wars between 1939 and 1944 but has now come to accept its Western political system and lifestyle.

Koivisto's dominance left the other candidates struggling for second place, and a chance to establish credentials for the 1994 presidential election.

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Socialist Kalevi Kivistö and Communist Jouko Kajaanöö won 9.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively.

Koivisto assured of new term

HELSINKI (R) — President Mauno Koivisto looked assured of a new six-year term despite his failure to score an outright victory in Finland's two-day presidential election.

The 64-year-old Social Democrat won 47.9 per cent of the popular vote and 144 seats in a 301-member Electoral College, which will now decide the election on Feb. 15.

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120 reported killed in N. Korean train blast

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong newspaper said Tuesday that 120 people were killed and 5,000 injured when an ammunition train from China exploded in North Korea near the Chinese border in December.

The Sing Tao Jih Pao, a leading independent Chinese-language paper, quoted border residents in China as saying the huge blast ripped through the North Korean military railway station near the border town of Kanggye.

The blast obliterated every building within a radius of 2.5 kilometres, they were quoted as

saying. The newspaper said Chinese and North Korean authorities were tightening security along the border.

"There hasn't been any big accident that we know of in the north east," a spokesman for the Jilin provincial government said.

A local government spokesman in the border town of Dandong in Liaoning province, which lies on the main rail route into North Korea, said the report was non-sense.

There was no comment from North Korean officials in Peking.

COLUMNS 7G8

Weinberger to be knighted

LONDON (R) — Former U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger will receive an honorary knighthood from Britain's Queen Elizabeth in appreciation of his contribution to Anglo-American defence cooperation, the Foreign Office said Monday. Weinberger, who resigned last November, will be appointed an Honorary Knight Grand Cross but as a foreigner will not carry the title "Sir." The queen will make the award when Weinberger visits Britain on Feb. 22, the Foreign Office said. During six years as President Reagan's defence secretary, Weinberger often voiced his commitment to a strong Europe and presided over an unprecedented peacetime military buildup.

Wife of anti-lottery preacher wins big

CHICAGO (AP) — The Rev. Jim Springfield preaches against playing the lottery, but his wife says she thinks it's a blessing that she has won more than \$1.2 million in the Illinois State Lottery. Barbara Springfield will receive annual payments of \$60,333 for 20 years for winning the lottery. She had bought only a few lottery tickets, which she had hid from her husband, she said Monday. "I prayed for her and asked the lord to forgive her," said Springfield, who is the pastor of a Baptist Church. Springfield, 49, said she will give 10 per cent of her winnings to the church and will also use the winnings to buy a house and pay bills. Springfield is the pastor of a poor, 150-member congregation. He makes about \$150 a week, so his wife, an assistant at a bank, has been the family's main breadwinner. Springfield said she intends to keep her job. The pastor said he is a little concerned about what his congregation will say about his wife's winnings. "It will give them the green light," Springfield said, adding that he expects they will ask him, "if... the pastor's wife does it, why can't we?"

Family kept dead man's body for 8 years

KNOXVILLE, Illinois (AP) — The widow and two children of a bookkeeper tended his body for eight years after he died, changing his clothing and bedding in the apparent belief that he was just sick, a sheriff says. The body of Carl L. Stevens, which had been reduced to skin and bones, was found last week after a relative helped authorities gain entrance to his home, officials said. "It's just very, very bizarre," said Knox County Sheriff Mark Shearer. "We are currently investigating the religious aspects of this. Let's just say they have abnormal beliefs in the power of healing." Stevens' widow, Carole, 42, and her son, Richard, 16, were arrested Friday on misdemeanor charges of failing to notify the coroner of a death. Stevens, a registered nurse, and Kunc, 42, and her son, Richard, 16, were arrested Friday on misdemeanor charges of failing to notify the coroner of a death. Stevens, a registered nurse, and Kunc, 42, and her son, Richard, 16, were arrested Friday on misdemeanor charges of failing to notify the coroner of a death.

Men kill wives, baby, in gambling row

SHANGHAI (R) — Two Shanghai men killed their wives and one his baby after family quarrels over gambling, official newspapers said Tuesday. The Liberation Daily said a factory worker, 35, strangled his wife with his bare hands after she complained of his stealing her money to gamble, and then strangled his baby with a rope. It said a steel worker stole 200 yuan from his wife and beat her to death in a row over gambling. Private business routinely bets sums of more than 10,000 yuan (\$2,700), it said. Shanghai Police in 1987 cracked more than 13,000 gambling cases, involving more than 51,000 people, about a third of all crimes in the city, the Wen Hui Bao reported. It said gambling accounted for one in three of all crimes in the city last year and about 1,000 gamblers in the city had received "education through labour," a Chinese form of detention.

U.K. police seek stolen rare snakes

LONDON (R) — British police and customs officers were on alert Monday to stop 11 rare snakes worth more than £8,000 (£14,000) being smuggled out of the country. A spokeswoman for the London Zoo said the snakes were stolen from the zoo's reptile house during the weekend. The thieves smashed down the doors to the reptile house and broke through the back of the snake tanks, taking the only hue-ring boa in Europe and other rare pythons and two eastern indigo snakes. The spokeswoman said the zoo feared the reptiles would be sold to private collectors in Europe and was offering a "substantial reward" for information leading to their recovery. "They were very selective. They were obviously professionals who probably have a market for the snakes already," she said.

Cave dwellers surface after 49 days

GENGA, Italy (R) — Eleven men and three women have emerged from deep caves after a 49-day experiment in living underground. The group, including a doctor and television cameraman, was led by veteran cave explorer Maurizio Montaldi, who set a world record last July after living alone in an underground grotto for 210 days. The cave dwellers looked happy and healthy as they climbed out of the cave in eastern Italy into the glare of television lights. They will undergo extensive medical tests over the next few days. After Montaldi's first experiment, doctors found his immune system and heart had suffered from the enforced isolation underground. They said he was extremely susceptible to infection and suffered from symptoms of angina for three months.

Pakistani who killed boy hanged

ISLAMABAD (R) — A man convicted of murdering a five-year-old boy to get a bowl of blood for the woman he loved was publicly hanged in central Pakistan, police said. Ten thousand people and hundreds of police watched as Mohammad Ahsan was put to death on a tripod gallows at a stadium in Multan, in Punjab province, jail officials said. He was the third man executed in public in Punjab in the past few weeks in a law-and-order drive by the provincial government. Several political organisations protested at the public execution.

France gets 464 Chagall works

PARIS (R) — The French state will receive 464 works by Russian-born artist Marc Chagall under a settlement agreed Monday between Finance Minister Edouard Balladur and Chagall's estate, the Finance Ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that the works, described as being an important part of Chagall's artistic production, would be given to French museums. The works, produced between 1901 and 1981, for four years before the artist's death in 1985, consisted of oil paintings, watercolours, books, designs, and ballet set designs, the ministry said. Chagall, who was born in pre-revolutionary Russia, moved to France in the 1920s. He is best-known for his brightly-coloured paintings with whimsical motifs including clowns, rabbits, fiddlers and lovers.

Handshake ends Dickens book dispute

BOWES, England (AP) — Descendants of Charles Dickens and the real-life schoolmaster on whom he based a villainous character in the novel "Nicholas Nickleby" met and ended 150 years of ill-will with a handshake. Christopher Dickens, the Victorian writer's great-grandson, came face-to-face with Bowes with Ted Shaw, whose great-great-grandfather William Shaw was Dickens' model for Wackford Squeers, the fictional headmaster of the book's infamous school Dotheboys Hall. In real life, William Shaw was headmaster of Shaw's Academy, a school in the village of Bowes in County Durham in north east England. The building, Dotheboys Hall, still exists but is no longer a school.

Soviet train with flammable liquid derails, 2,000 evacuated

MOSCOW (AP) — About 2,000 people were evacuated and 12 rescue workers hospitalised after a train carrying a poisonous and flammable liquid derailed in the Volga River city of Yaroslavl, Soviet media said Tuesday.

In the accident early Monday, seven rail cars, including three tank cars carrying the unidentified toxic chemical, left the tracks 150 metres from a bridge across the Volga, the Sovietskaya Rossiya daily said.

One of the tank cars fell on its side and broke open on impact,

Aquino calls for more work, less talk

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino Tuesday rebuked two senior officials, one for making a long-winded speech and the other for not attending quickly to people's complaints.

Aquino gave a rare display of presidential pique when she and cabinet members visited her home province of Tarlac to inspect newly elected local officials.

Public Works Secretary Juanito Ferri, who was supposed to explain the government's programmes, felt the presidential harangue when he gave a discourse on how lucky people were to live in Aquino's home province.

"Talk about the projects," Aquino said, cutting him off.

Aquino did not spare her National Irrigation Administration chief Federico Alday who tried to parry residents' complaints about illegal dykes that had deprived their farms of water.

When Alday said he could not act on complaints unless he received an official report, Aquino snapped: "Why do you have to wait for a report? Why don't you send someone out there or go there yourself?"

Aquino's unprecedent outburst followed her announcement at the weekend that implementation of 72 foreign-funded projects costing about \$1.8 billion had been completed.

She told a television interview the government could not take up other foreign loan offers because of the lack of well-prepared projects that could be immediately implemented.

The government charges of kidnapping and extortion, the spokesman said.

Police originally thought they were facing three gunmen, but hostages released during the siege said there were only two.

The release of the last seven hostages ended a tense 10-hour stand-off in which the gunmen seized 17 people and threatened to kill some of them unless they could meet the governor of North Carolina to discuss their grievances.

The gunmen, who demanded an investigation of mistreatment of Indians and blacks by police in rural Robeson County, were taken into custody without incident by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a police spokesman said.

They had been armed with a minor suit for a ruff-shuff, or throwing West in with a spade to eventually force a ruff-shuff that would enable declarer to get rid of his losing diamond.

He has become quite fashionable to overall with scant values in an attempt to interfere with the flow of the auction. That can be a successful tactic, but it does backfire every so often.

West's cue-bid of the enemy suit requested his partner to bid hearts if he held at least four cards in the suit. South obliged, but because both North and South had perfectly balanced hands and South was minimum into the bargain, the final contract was anything but a "gimme."

West led the top of his spade sequence and, had declarer had nothing

Italian government survives 2 more votes

ROME (R) — Italy's government has won two more confidence votes to help force through its 1988 budget, continually delayed by sabotage from its own deputies.

The five-party coalition led by Christian Democrat Giovanni Goria won the votes, dealing with social security and health payments, by 337 to 162 and 339 to 167.

The government called the open confidence votes after being repeatedly defeated by its own rebellious deputies voting with the opposition in secret ballots on several clauses of the budget law.

It won two confidence votes dealing with taxes last Friday and the two Monday wind up voting on the revenue-raising clauses of the bill.

Parliamentary sources said although 25 budget clauses on public spending remained to be considered, their passage through parliament was unlikely to be as difficult as those dealing with raising revenue.

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